

## Germaine

Germaine Lawrence celebrates 10 years in town/page 3A.

## Questions

Residents address questions that will face voters on Tuesday, Nov. 6/page 6A.

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# The Arlington Advocate

VOL. 118, NO. 43

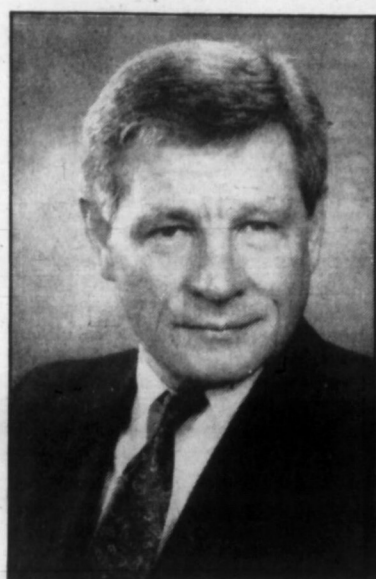
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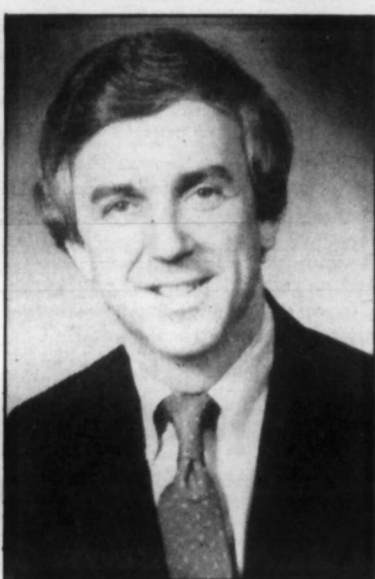
## Election '90: Senate candidates reviewed



Doug Howard



Helen Metros



Robert Havern

By R. SCOTT RAYNOVICH  
Advocate Assistant Editor

The Citizens for Limited Taxation referendum — or Question 3 — has surfaced as the most contested issue in the election for the Fourth Middlesex District Senate seat.

Independent Helen Metros, Republican Doug Howard and Democratic Rep. Bob Havern all identified Question 3, the CLT petition that asks for broad state tax rollbacks, as the most important issue in the campaign.

All three candidates for the district — Lexington, Burlington, Woburn, Arlington and Ward 11 Cambridge — are from Arlington.

Havern, now Arlington's state representative, identified Question 3 as a major issue because he felt a "yes" vote has the potential to create "chaos at the local level."

"I am not voting for the CLT petition," said Havern. "It would be foolish to think that you could take \$2 billion out of the state revenue without putting the state into a deep recession."

Havern said he recognized the "need to cut back government," but felt that Question 3 was "a draconian approach to that."

Doug Howard is "especially concerned and adamant," about winning a "yes" vote for Question 3,

saying it's time to reduce the size of "the large and unwieldy government."

"The last tax package passed by legislation is irresponsible, seriously flawed, and hurting small businesses," according to Howard, who called the promotion of small businesses the "cornerstone" of his campaign.

Metros asks "why shouldn't I vote yes for CLT when we've already given out so much money?" She believes that a "yes" vote does not necessarily need to cause budget cuts in local government, since money from the state lottery could be earmarked for cities in towns instead of "being dumped in that bottomless black hole they call the general fund."

Another part of the Metros tax-reform proposal includes a proposal to mandate that revenues from the 5 percent meals tax go to the elderly.

The campaign strategies of the candidates show dramatic differences.

Howard has drawn attention to his campaign by sharply criticizing Havern, most notably by running an ad in the Woburn Times-Chronicle that positioned Havern's photo next to Saddam Hussein's and stated that "One of these men is responsible for increasing Bay State gasoline prices

by 10 cents a gallon." In another advertisement, Howard attacks Havern's proposal to allow slot machines at area race tracks; the ad calls it "The Bob's screw-ball scheme." One of Howard's slogans has become "Stopping Big Casino Politics."

In response to Howard's attacks Havern said: "I am trying to run a positive campaign, I tell people what I'm going to do... it would be counter-productive for me to run a negative campaign. How can people respect you [the candidates] when you can't respect each other."

Havern said he runs his campaign under the premise that his experience gives him the edge. "You need to know what to do," said Havern, "I'm the most qualified to do that."

Helen Metros claims that her opponents represent the small percentage of the population that has monopolized politics as a profession. "We have enough lawyers and real estate brokers in the State House. I could do a better job to represent the people as a citizen. My opponents can take six months off and campaign. Rotation is going to be our salvation."

The different candidates also have different viewpoints on how the trend in the state's economy can be (See SENATE, page 2A)

## Stop & Shop talks ended by committee

\$4m offer for field will not be discussed

By CAROL BEGGY  
Advocate Editor

Discussions with Stop & Shop for the company to buy a 2.4-acre piece of property next to Arlington High School will stop, following a vote by the School Committee Tuesday.

After speeches from town officials and community members on the pros and cons of allowing the debate over the proposal to continue, the committee voted 7 to 2 to discontinue any dialogue on the plan.

"The discussion of whether or not the deal is a good deal or a bad deal is irrelevant. There is no deal until the land is made available," said School Committee member Doug Delaney. "This land is not surplus... Giving up the land is not an educationally sound thing to do."

Stop & Shop officials and some current and former town officials made pitches to the committee to continue the process. However, a number of those against the proposal also made their case before the School Committee.

Conservation Commission Chairman Bruce Whittle told committee members the loss of the open space near the high school is even greater than losing land elsewhere in town because of the need for young people to have physical education and recreation.

He also added: "Do you really need more information from Stop & Shop to know that \$4 million — almost identical to their original offer three years ago and enough to

'The discussion of whether or not the deal is a good deal or a bad deal is irrelevant. There is no deal until the land is made available. This land is not surplus. Giving up the land is not an educationally sound thing to do.'

— Doug Delaney,  
School Committee member

run the town for 25 days — is a pitiable and paltry sum, and yet it is about the best that they are going to be prepared to offer for this priceless and irreplaceable resource?"

But Ronald Nigro, a 25-year Town Meeting member and former selectman, told the committee that as a resident he is concerned they would turn down an opportunity to bring stability to the system through the revenue the project would generate.

"You need to ask if it is this a fair price, and I think it is a fair price," said Nigro, "\$4 million. That's not chopped liver — not in this day and age. It's a good faith offer."

The Stop & Shop Co. offered \$4 million for 2.4 acres of school-controlled land near Arlington High School to build a "superstore." The supermarket chain made its offer public last week to allow committee members to look at the issues before Tuesday night's meeting.

In the package given to town officials, the company said it would make a cash payment to the town of \$4 million when the deal is closed, and pay an additional \$1.1 million in taxes and traffic improvements.

Following the vote, Charles Hofeller, the company's senior real estate manager, said, "We will continue, as we have for 32 years, to serve our customers as best we can." On whether the company would approach the town with an offer again he said: "I don't believe so unless the School Committee declares it excess. We will just continue to serve our customers as best we can."

The 2.4-acre site is a non-regulation-sized field behind the current store and near the high school baseball diamond. The land was acquired in the 1970s when the town planned to renovate and expand the high school. The field was slated to be the site of a pool and a hockey rink.

Although the school renovations were approved, the recreational facilities were not. The land was then left vacant and used for a while as a parking lot. About five years ago, the land was made flat and playable through the use of Com-

(See PLAN, page 5A)

## A tape is worth a 1,000 words

Local military families can send videotaped personal messages to loved ones serving in the Persian Gulf.

Continental Cablevision in Arlington is inviting local families to come to its cable TV studio, where a production crew will videotape messages to family members or friends as part of the company's "Operation Cablegram" initiative throughout New England.

The company will be working closely with Armed Forces Radio and Television in Washington, D.C., and other military authorities to see that the family "cablegrams" are delivered as quickly as possible to servicemen and women in Saudi Arabia and other posts supporting the United States' "Operation Desert Shield" mission in that region.

"We will produce a two or three-minute video message free of charge

for any military family living in Arlington that makes an appointment to come to our local studio," said Bill Kulik, Continental's community relations director.

"Letters from family members have always been a lifeline for American soldiers, sailors and Air Force personnel serving far from home. Now... they'll have far more than words of love and family news from home," Kulik said. "They also will be able to see the expression on their loved ones' faces; hear the emotion in their voices."

Continental's "Operation Cablegram" is also made possible by communications technology advances in the U.S. Armed Forces. Just as soldiers are now using laptop computers in the field, ships in the Persian Gulf fleet have their own closed circuit television networks; VCRs and monitors are available at many ground command posts; and the military is working to establish a

low-power television "station" to transmit pictures and voices from one location to another in the Persian Gulf.

Continental and military authorities are still working out details on the best ways to get New England families' video messages to their relatives, but Armed Forces Radio and Television has agreed to edit and combine taped messages going to the same ships in the Persian Gulf fleet, so they can be played over those ships' closed-circuit TV systems.

Families of military personnel stationed in the Persian Gulf should contact Bill Kulik at Continental Cablevision, 876-5005, for more information and to make appointments to visit the studio and have their "Operation Cablegram" message taped. They are asked to bring with them their relatives' APO or FPO military address.

## The issues of East Arlington

By CAROL BEGGY  
Advocate Editor

The only issues Democrat state Rep. Mary Jane Gibson and her Republican challenger William Monahan agree on are which issues they should disagree on. And that is most of them.

Ask the two about plans for the Alewife Brook Parkway area, the Citizens for Limited Taxation's Question 3, or Question 5's attempt to return 40 percent of state growth taxes to communities in local aid, and very different answers emerge.

About the only things Gibson and Monahan have in common are that they are both from Belmont, both want to represent the district, and both believe the problems of the district can be solved by a strong state representative working in concert with town officials.

In a joint interview held at the Harte-Hanks Community Newspapers headquarters in Waltham last week, the two candidates outlined their positions on the issues facing the 26th Middlesex District, which covers all of Belmont and precincts 1-4 and 6 in East Arlington.

"Taxes, income, control of the



William Monahan



Mary Jane Gibson

state budget, quality of life — these issues don't hold any boundaries," said Monahan, a 12-year selectman in Belmont. "The Alewife development, the Alewife Brook, the Truss Bridge, these things affect everyone in the district."

Gibson also said the residents of the district have a lot in common,

even though they come from different towns. "I'm trying to think of a single issue that would be different between Arlington and Belmont. I have spent a great deal of time on individual constituent services. A number of people need assistance in

(See HOUSE, page 2A)

## Questions face voters

### Question 1

For The Advocate

Abolishing the state census will give the state a more accurate head count while saving money, or skew the numbers and deprive the state of representation in Congress, depending on whom you believe.

Massachusetts is the only state that conducts its own census every 10 years instead of using the federal census.

Question One on the November ballot will ask voters to approve a constitutional amendment to abolish the state census, currently used for determining state representation (See QUESTION 1, page 4A)

### Question 4

By JEFF ADAIR  
AND DARIA CASANELLI  
For The Advocate

In 1988, according to statistics compiled by the Committee for Fair Ballot Access (CFBA), more than 98 percent of the members of Congress were re-elected; also 50 percent of the seats in the Massachusetts Senate and 66 percent in the House were uncontested.

These are just a few reasons that proponents of ballot Question 4 say it should pass. "Currently Massachusetts laws [for ballot access] are the most restrictive (See QUESTION 4, page 10B)

### Question 6

By KAREN BUCKLEY  
For The Advocate

Voters will be asked this November whether certified candidates for state office should have free and equal broadcast time for political advertising.

Question 6, which asks voters to decide on free and equal broadcast time, does not create a new law or bind the Legislature, and is simply an advisory question.

Supporters say an affirmative vote would send a message to Congress and federal regulators that voters want such a measure in place.

(See QUESTION 6, page 4A)

## Heights Day



Doug Mitchell of Kingston, N.H., sings for the crowd at the Discovering Arlington Heights Day activities Saturday. Despite some traffic tie-ups, both town officials and business organizations said the day was a success. The events included "give-aways" from some of the more than 60 participating businesses and entertainment throughout the day. Organizers hope the event can be continued in the future.

(Barbara Bergen photo)

## Trick or Treat tips

By JOHN D. GUIDA  
For The Advocate

The traditional characters such as vampires and ghosts will still roam the streets of Arlington on Halloween night this year.

But pop culture icons like Mutant Turtles and The Simpsons, superhero favorites like Batman and Dick Tracy and innovative figures such as walking bananas, walking french fries and a variety of homemade inventions will also be seen, according to local costume dealers.

This is a special Halloween, as it marks anniversaries of two groups that have participated in Arlington Halloween for years.

UNICEF marks the 40th anniversary of National UNICEF Day. Arlington children will "Trick-or-Treat for UNICEF", collecting donations to help other children in 128 developing countries.

This traditional fundraising drive, among the largest volunteer-led campaigns in the country, is essential to UNICEF's ability to save millions of lives by providing clean water, vaccinations, and health care to needy children around the world, according to the organization.

The Otis Junior High School will be conducting its 20th annual Halloween Drive during Oct. 30-31, with proceeds going to the Kidney (See TIPS, page 4A)



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# The issues of East Arlington/Belmont

(From page 1A)

finding the help they need. I find that to be true on both sides of Route 2."

But the candidates disagree sharply on how these issues should be addressed.

The plans for redesigning the roadway the Route 2/Alewife Brook Parkway interchange have been a focal point of Monahan's campaign against Gibson. State Secretary of Transportation Frederick Salvucci this year presented a revised plan for the area which includes some elevation of the current roadway and an expansion of lanes.

"What we need is to build a consensus among the communities, but we also need leadership to get the Truss Bridge replaced," said Monahan. "We don't need to have a super-highway — as the 'preferred alternative' is called — in an area where it will impact the environment and the neighborhoods. No one from the area supports this plan."

Gibson, however, said her position on this issue has been misrepresented.

"I don't support any specific plan," said Gibson, who is in her 12th year as a state representative. "However, there are a number of concerns I have for the area such as the Truss Bridge. Any plan that encompasses and addresses those issues, I will support."

Gibson added that the Truss Bridge replacement and the Alewife Brook traffic problem are not new issues to her. "I have been working on these for at least 10 years," she said.

The two candidates agree on the need to clean-up Alewife Brook, although Monahan says the brook is not removed from the plans for the roadway.

"We might be cleaning up the brook only to have it polluted or further impacted by the roadway in that area," said Monahan.

Gibson said the work she has already done with other state and local officials to have \$140,000 worth of surface work done on the brook is evidence that something can be done, but "we still have a long way to go before the Alewife Brook is as clean as it should be."

On the financial issues that face the district and the state, the candidates represent opposite sides of the spectrum. Gibson says Question 3 is the wrong way to restructure state government and that Question 5 is not fiscally responsible. Monahan disagrees.

"State government must be restructured, but not by referendum," said Gibson. "It's a temper tantrum. It's an expression of anger, but it punishes everybody. We need to ask: 'Do we restructure sensitively ... or do we slash and burn?'"

Monahan said he is in favor of the CLT petition, "provided there is a six month delay in its implementation." He added: "If the state government had done more to head off these problems, we wouldn't need CLT. It's more than a temper tantrum. It's a revolution."

Having spent more than a decade as a local official, Monahan said he agrees with the 40 percent mandate of state growth taxes for local aid. "I support the concept of a specific amount of local aid. There is an inconsistency in the (current) formula. Give us the same in good times and bad."

Gibson said the concept is a good one, but it would be "unworkable."

"I support the concept, I don't support the law. In a dramatically changing economy I don't believe this would be workable," she said.

During the issues discussion, the two candidates were amicable, despite representing polar opposites of the issues.

"I believe I have worked well for the district. I have worked full-time at that job for Belmont and East Arlington," said Gibson. "I think the reputation of the district is one of legislative fairness."

Monahan said he will bring to the job his experience as a local official, his training as a counselor and an attorney and his willingness to make changes. "I'm not looking at the world through rose-colored glasses," he said.

## Senate candidates address issues

(From page 1A)

reversed.

"I would like to see an out-of-state audit and find out where all these taxes and fees are going," says Metros. In addition, Metros believes that legislators simply do not work hard enough. "We should put them all to work from 9 to 5 and have them punch a punchcard," she added.

Metros also said that politicians are rewarded too easily: "If a senator serves six years at 55 he can retire with a pension that is two-thirds his

salary ... a policeman has to work 31 years for that."

Howard said he believes it is time to "reawaken the great entrepreneurial spirit in Massachusetts," and that small businesses need tax incentives to be encouraged to stay

in the state and help the economy.

Havern, the only candidate who has held a public office in the State House, says that "he has the experience and understanding of the budget problem," to solve matters. His strategy would hinge on "identifying places to cut the budget."

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## "If you like Dukakis, you'll love Kerry."

Don Feder, *The Boston Herald*

John Kerry was Mike Dukakis' Lieutenant Governor. They ran as a team; they were elected as a team; and they think like a team. Dukakis has said that they worked together to develop their joint economic plan for our state — a plan that has created the mess we have now. Mike Dukakis stayed here to implement their plan, and John Kerry took their ideas to Washington as an ambassador for the Kerry/Dukakis philosophy. Kerry and Dukakis are in fact two peas in a pod.

- Dukakis has raised our taxes 3 times in 18 months; according to the Tax Foundation, Kerry has voted to increase federal taxes 5 times.
- Dukakis opposes requiring able-bodied welfare recipients to work; Kerry voted against requiring one parent in a two-parent family to work 16 hours a week in community service if the family is receiving welfare.
- Dukakis opposes the death penalty; Kerry opposes the death penalty. He even voted against the death penalty for terrorists who kill Americans abroad.

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## School celebrates 10 years

Ten years ago, St. Anne's School changed its identity from a girls' boarding school under the leadership of the Episcopal Order of St. Anne, to a residential treatment center for adolescent girls under the leadership of the lay board of directors and an executive director.

The new entity took the name of the Mother Superior of the Order, Mother Germaine, in connection with her family name — hence Germaine Lawrence School.

In the 10 years since the school underwent this transformation, programs have been shaped and reshaped to reflect the changing needs of the changing population served by the School. Today, Germaine Lawrence is recognized by medical and social services professionals throughout New England to be premier facility of its kind. It is noted for the quality and completeness of its programs, for the caring environment created by qualified and nurturing staff, and for the high

success rate in returning girls to their families and communities, better equipped to deal with the stresses of adolescence.

It is with great pleasure that the school looks back on these 10 years of growth as laying the foundation for the next 10, say officials. One of the ways Germaine Lawrence is celebrating its tenth birthday is through our tenth annual crafts fair. This event has been a favorite opportunity for friends and neighbors to visit the campus, do holiday shopping, eat delicious food and learn a bit more about the school.

On Nov. 3 the doors will once again be open from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. for the crafts fair. This year, however, the school will have a room of baked international holiday goods, featuring festive baked yeast breads and such specialties as Linzer torte, stollen, Christmas star cookie trees, gingerbread house kits ready to assemble, assorted holiday cookies, and giant moded cookies to hang on

your tree or eat anytime.

In keeping with tradition, hot meals in the kitchen will be provided at a modest price. Children are welcome to visit the Kids' Room for face painting, games and surprises, while all are invited to purchase tickets to take a chance on one of a variety of exciting raffle prizes: a weekend for two at the Boston Harbor Hotel; tickets to the Bruins; theater tickets to Forbidden Broadway, Catch a Rising Star or the North Shore Music Theatre; dinner at the Hard Rock Cafe; or a variety of personal services including massage, facial and pedicure.

"We greatly appreciate the community spirit which this year has made it possible for us to go directly into our immediate neighborhood with volunteers, to introduce ourselves and our programs, and to invite all of you personally to our party. See you there," said organizers.

## Raynovich joins Advocate staff

R. Scott Raynovich has joined the staff of The Advocate, replacing Peggy Bustamante as assistant editor.

In making the announcement this week, Advocate Editor Carol Beggy said: "Scott brings a lot of energy and talent to the job. We have every confidence that he will be able to grapple with the issues facing Arlington and write about them in an interesting and informative way."

Raynovich attended Weston High School and then went on to graduate from the University of Colorado with a bachelor of arts degree in French. After working for a year at a community newspaper in the Rocky



R. Scott Raynovich

Mountains, he has returned to pursue his journalism career in his home state.

"I look forward to working at The Advocate. Arlington is a community that has all of the diverse elements I enjoy writing about. I hope I can add something to the town by contributing to public debate and knowledge," said Raynovich.

Raynovich replaces Peggy Bustamante, who served as The Advocate's assistant editor for two years. Bustamante is now working as an assistant features editor with another Harte-Hanks newspaper in Texas, The Corpus Christi Caller-Times.

## Walkathon for meals program

The second annual Miles for Meals Walkathon will be held by Minuteman Home Care at the Burlington Mall on Thursday, Nov. 8. The Walkathon raises money for the home delivered "meals-on-wheels" and the Eating Together meal sites run by Minuteman Home Care. These meal programs are available to all people age 60 and over, but have suffered funding cutbacks by the Commonwealth and Federal government. Last year's first Walkathon was very successful and fun, and raised close to \$6,000. This year's event will build on that success, and will be bigger and better for everyone participating.

The Walkathon will be held from 8 to 10 a.m. at the Burlington Mall. Walkers of all ages will walk at their own pace around the lower level of the mall. Three laps of the bottom level of the Burlington Mall is one mile.

To register as a walker, contact Minuteman Home Care at 272-7177 or (508)263-8720. A pledge sheet will be sent for walkers to use to collect

money pledges from sponsors. These registration forms will also be available in all eleven of Minuteman's Eating Together meal sites.

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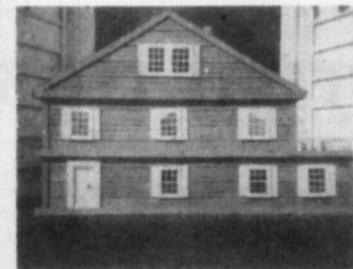
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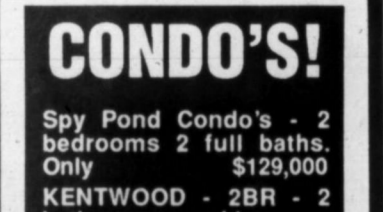
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POLICE LOG

Arrests

On Oct. 15, a 13-year-old Cleveland Street boy was taken in Child in Need of Service, or CHINS, custody.

A 26-year-old Lexington man was arrested for three counts of assault by means of a deadly weapon with a knife on Oct. 15. The man had entered Hodgdon-Noynes Buick for business pertaining to his automobile when an argument erupted between him and employees of the dealership. An employee was pushed to the ground, and other employees came to confront the man when he pulled out a knife. Police arrived at the scene and diffused the situation.

A 17-year-old Renfrew Street adolescent was arrested on Oct. 15 for larceny of goods less than \$250.

On Oct. 16, a 33-year-old Mass. Ave. man was arrested on a Metropolitan Police warrant.

A 19-year-old Nicod Street adolescent was arrested on Oct. 16 for a

Lexington police warrant for minor transporting alcohol at 8:47 p.m.

A 13-year-old boy was taken under CHINS custody on Oct. 16.

On Oct. 17, a 27-year-old Somerville man was picked up at the Chelsea Court for a default warrant of motor vehicle violations and receiving stolen property.

A 24-year-old Boston man was picked up at the South Boston Court for a default warrant of assault and battery on a police officer.

A 16-year-old Standish Road adolescent was arrested for speeding and operating without a license on Oct. 18 at Lake Street near St. Jerome's Church.

A 29-year-old Brookline man was arrested on a default warrant for larceny by check.

Vandalism

A Milton Street resident reported on Oct. 18 that four tires on a motor vehicle were slashed sometime overnight.

Highland Supermarket of Mass. Avenue reported on Oct. 19 a 4-foot by 10-foot plate glass window was broken.

On Oct. 20, a Fremont Street man reported the front windshield of his 1985 Chevrolet was broken sometime overnight.

A Wright Street man reported on Oct. 20 his 1985 Ford had been spray-painted in orange on the sides and pelted with rocks.

On Oct. 21, a Chester Street woman reported that the rear window of her 1989 Ford had been broken by a pumpkin.

A Tufts Street man reported on Oct. 21 that the exterior of his 1986 Toyota had been scratched since 1 p.m.

Break-ins and Larcenies

On Oct. 15, a Derry, N.H., woman reported at 8:30 a.m. that a black leather pocketbook with \$600 in cash

and personal papers had been stolen.

A Mystic Street man reported on Oct. 15 that on Sept. 27 a check was taken and forged on Oct. 1 at the Coolidge Bank.

Arlington High School reported on Oct. 15 that between Oct. 12 and 13 an office door was forced and an ATT answering machine, a Pentax camera with four lenses, and \$45 cash was taken.

Motor Sports of Mass. Avenue reported on Oct. 15 that \$400 in cash was taken from the top of the manager's desk at 6:35 p.m.

A Cumberland Farms store clerk, a Brighton man, reported on Oct. 15 that three males and a female entered the store and took three packs of cigarettes, and upon confronting the group outside the store the clerk was assaulted by a male.

A Lafayette Street man reported on Oct. 15 that entry had been gained through a rear door between 3:43 p.m. and stereo speakers and a

receiver were taken.

On Oct. 17, a Stowcraft Road man reported that a book of 25 checks was taken around Oct. 10 and the checks were passed at the BayBanks on Mass. Avenue.

A Brattle Drive resident reported on Oct. 18 that a person forced entry through a rear bathroom window and \$10,000 in Apple Computer Equipment was taken.

A Mystic Street woman reported on Oct. 20 that there had been forced entry through the passenger door of her motor vehicle and there was damage to the door and steering column.

On Oct. 20, a Mass. Avenue man reported that the passenger window of his 1986 VW was broken and an AM/FM radio and radar detector were taken.

A Mystic Street man reported on Oct. 20 that the left vent window was broken on his 1983 Buick.

On Oct. 21, a Bailey Road man reported seven to eight cassette

tapes stolen and an attempt was made to take the cassette player from his 1987 Honda.

Miscellaneous

On Oct. 15, a Ridge Street woman reported that as a result of a small motor vehicle collision on Mass. Avenue she was assaulted and pushed by another woman, but the unknown woman left the scene.

A Highland Avenue man filed a report on Oct. 15 concerning threatening calls from a former employee.

A Mass. Avenue man reported on Oct. 16 that he had been receiving calls at night and the phone company had been notified.

A juvenile was assaulted on Oct. 17 at 7:28 p.m. by another juvenile, 11 years old, in the Robbins Library area. Juvenile officers are investigating the case.

On Oct. 18, a Coolidge Road man reported receiving telephone calls at all hours.

Trick or Treat tips for town

(From page 1A)

Foundation. This year is especially appropriate since two students had kidney transplants in the past year.

Safety Officer Dave McKenna has offered some safety tips for Arlington's Halloween revelers. He recommends that trick-or-treaters try to make their rounds when it is still light out, and if not only visit well-lighted, familiar neighborhoods and homes with porch lights on. The younger ones should stay in groups with parents or older, responsible family members.

Food should go straight into the bag and children should not eat anything until they get home so parents can carefully check the food, McKenna advises.

When checking the treats, parents are warned to discard anything that is home-made, does not have a wrapping, or is damaged or suspicious in any way.

McKenna asks trick-or-treaters to

remember safe pedestrian procedures. They should cross only at crosswalks, and look left, right, and left again before stepping off the curb.

"If you stray or are lost, find a block parent for help or ask a police officer to help you," McKenna said.

Despite the attraction of glamour and originality in costume design, parents should choose carefully.

McKenna said that if you wear a costume, it should be white, bright, or reflective, or all of the above, and should be fire retardant. Adhesive strips taped to the costume will increase visibility to motorists.

"We recommend kids not wear masks because they can obstruct vision," McKenna said. "But if they must wear a mask, make sure that the eye holes are big enough and the child can breathe properly. Masks can slip down over a child's eyes so make sure they are secured and that

there are no problems seeing."

Do not carry toy knives or sharp instruments and be alerted to hazards such as lawn furniture and excavation.

"Always, always use a flashlight and not a candle," McKenna said.

McKenna also added that trick-or-treaters should respect the property of others and take care not to cause any damage.

The ALA Auto and Travel Club has advised motorists to be extra cautious while operating a motor vehicle on Halloween night.

"During the excitement of Halloween trick-or-treating, costumed youngsters may forget about safety and dart across streets without looking," John G. McMann, ALA president said. "Motorists should be prepared to expect the unexpected, particularly during the early evening hours of Halloween in residential areas."

Equal airtime for candidates

(From page 1A)

Laws governing political advertising on radio and television are currently under the jurisdiction of the federal government through the Federal Communications Commission (FCC). Broadcasting stations must use their "lowest unit charge" for political candidates seeking to advertise.

In addition, if a station allows one candidate to use it as an advertising vehicle, the station must give equal opportunity for the other candidates to pay for broadcast time. Exceptions to this law are newscasts, documentaries or on-the-spot coverage. If candidates feel they have been denied access, they can file a complaint with the FCC.

But the ballot question suggests providing equal and free time to all candidates, which supporters say would better inform the public. According to Rep. Nicholas Paleologos, sponsor of the question, the prohibitive costs of advertising keep citizens from running for office, or give the candidate with the most money an edge.

In addition, supporters say candidates have to tap into special interest monies to fund their campaigns due to the high cost of advertising.

However, opponents have called the measure "irresponsible," and say the question is moot since broadcasting regulations are set by the federal government. "It is not a state measure," said William Mockbee, president of the Massachusetts Broadcasters Association.

"The only people who benefit from the existing system are television stations," Paleologos

said. He said the current system creates "an alliance between the media... and incumbent candidates," in that it protects incumbents from challenges because advertising costs are prohibitive.

"It's too expensive to run," Paleologos said. "My basic belief is that television stations owe... the public in exchange for the license [stations] are given. The airwaves are owned by the public. We don't ask for much in return for that lucrative license."

Opponents say free and equal broadcasting time would clutter the airwaves with political advertising. While some supporters believe free and equal broadcast time would reduce campaign fundraising, opponents say equal funds would be raised but dispersed elsewhere, for more elaborate advertising.

"We feel it's another Massachusetts mandated program administered by politicians for politicians," said Mockbee. "It would mean nothing but cluttering up radio and television [stations]." Mockbee said even with paid commercials, political advertising has become "overburdening."

Because the stations must charge the lowest unit rate, Mockbee said, political advertisers are treated fairly. "There really is not the overabundance of funds everyone is talking about," he said.

Mockbee said he foresees potential problems defining the free air time in relation to tax laws. "It might be construed as a contribution to a [political] campaign," he said.

"There is no real mechanism as to how it would be implemented," added Mockbee. Media stations "consistently do our job

in bringing information to the public," he said.

"We feel it takes a slap at broadcasters," Mockbee said.

"We do not view ourselves as the bad guys. We do not view ourselves as the root of the problem," he said. "The anger we feel... and the frustration we feel... we don't need any more advertising. We need action."

Mockbee suggested that a measure outlining "campaign reform from top to bottom" would be more appropriate.

But Paleologos insists broadcast stations have not treated political candidates fairly.

"Television has become a talking billboard in our livingrooms," he said.

Paleologos said Independents who are not included in debates are treated unfairly. All candidates' views should be heard, he said, so voters can make an educated decision.

"That decision is up to me to make as a citizen, not up to some [television] executive," Paleologos said.

Paleologos said the argument of cluttering up airwaves "would make sense if there were 12 candidates." However, he added, "Suddenly they're concerned about clutter. These people are only concerned about clutter when it impacts their coffers."

"Question 6 is about fairness. The only people who don't understand it these days is television stations," he said.

"The only way we're going to make the election process fairer is to eliminate the need for public financing of campaigns," Paleologos said.

Whether to abolish the census

(From page 1A)

representative, senatorial and councilor districts.

"It's a waste of money," said Rep. John Businger, House chairman of the Committee on Election Laws, who has been fighting to get rid of the census for the past 18 years. "It's better to join the rest of the United States, and get rid of the local census."

Opponents of the measure claim that local officials are able to get more accurate counts because they know their town better than the federal agency.

William Galvin, state representative from Brighton, says that abolishing the state census would leave the state no way to cross-check the results of the federal

census. He said that the federal census has been "historically unreliable."

Galvin said figures from the last three federal censuses were wrong and Massachusetts may lose a Congressional seat because of it.

"That is a false argument," claimed Businger. "Facts are facts. If you compare the recent state and federal census, the federal numbers are better."

Galvin argued that, "City and town clerks, who are responsible for taking the state census, are more accurate in counting residents because they know the areas where they work." He also said the whole state could be short changed because tempor-

ary workers hired by the federal government were not able to count in the most dangerous parts of Boston.

Businger disagreed, saying that while town clerks come and go, the federal census is administered through an agency with a centralized authority and established training methods.

"They know how to do it," Businger said. "If the state screws up, which is rampant, your town loses representation and funds. The towns' listing techniques have not kept up with the times."

The Legislature gave final approval to abolish the state census last summer, in a 186-6 vote.

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275 Prospect St. (Prospect & Nahatan) 617-255-9779



# Stop & Shop talks discontinued

(From page 1A)

munity Development Block Grant money.

School Committee members were vocal against declaring the land surplus.

"The land, from what our people have told us, is not surplus. We are cash poor, that's true, but are also a land-poor town," said School Committee member Katharine Pennelly.

Committee member William Carey said, "You don't sell off a capital asset for operating expenses. You don't sell off a capital asset for a quick buck."

Committee member Delaney made the motion: "That the School Committee discontinue talks until such time as the School Committee declares the land surplus and issues a request for bids." School Committee members David McKenna and Carolyn Simmons voted against discontinuing the discussions.

McKenna said: "I think this proposal at this stage has merit. I'm not saying I'm ready to release the land... but it's too premature to make a decision to stop this process."

The company sought to purchase the town-owned land to build a new superstore three times the size of the current store. The land is located directly behind the existing Stop & Shop at 905 Mass. Ave.

The school department uses the field for physical education and some athletic practices. School officials from both of those departments told the school administration the land was not surplus. "The land is not surplus," said Superintendent Walter Devine to a direct question on the issue. "It has not been proven to me the land is surplus."

This is the second time Stop & Shop has sought to use the town land. Three years ago, the company offered to lease the land for 99 years and build the town a collegiate-sized pool. The company determined the total package was worth \$4.8 million, including tax and traffic benefits.

## Town official 'diappointed'

The action to stop talks with the Stop & Shop Co. has disappointed and angered some town officials who said the money from such a deal could be used to maintain programs and services, particularly for the schools.

"I very, very disappointed by the School Committee's decision," said Town Manager Donald R. Marquis. "I think it was premature for the committee to makes its decision without all the pertinent information before them."

The only decision the School Committee could make that would have stopped the process over whether the town should sell the 2.4-acre piece of land was to stop receiving information from the company. The committee took that action Tuesday with a vote of 7 to 2.

School Committee members focused their attention on whether the land is surplus, which was the first action the committee would have had to take before the land could have been sold.

However, Marquis said that view was short-sighted.

"In my view that was a cop-out. It's a question of whether the land, which I view as useless, is worth \$4 million, and what we can do with that \$4 million."

Marquis said he takes his stand in light of the issues that face the town this fall. "If CLT [Question 3 on the ballot] passes, the town stands to lose \$3 million. This proposal could have helped ease that pain and allow the school department to continue some of its programs," he said.

Marquis and other town officials spoke publicly about using any proceeds from a sale of the land to fund school programs or establish a trust for school programs and activities.

"You know the town is going through a period of long-term planning called Vision 2020," said the town manager, "and I think this action by the School Committee shows something less than 20/20 vision."

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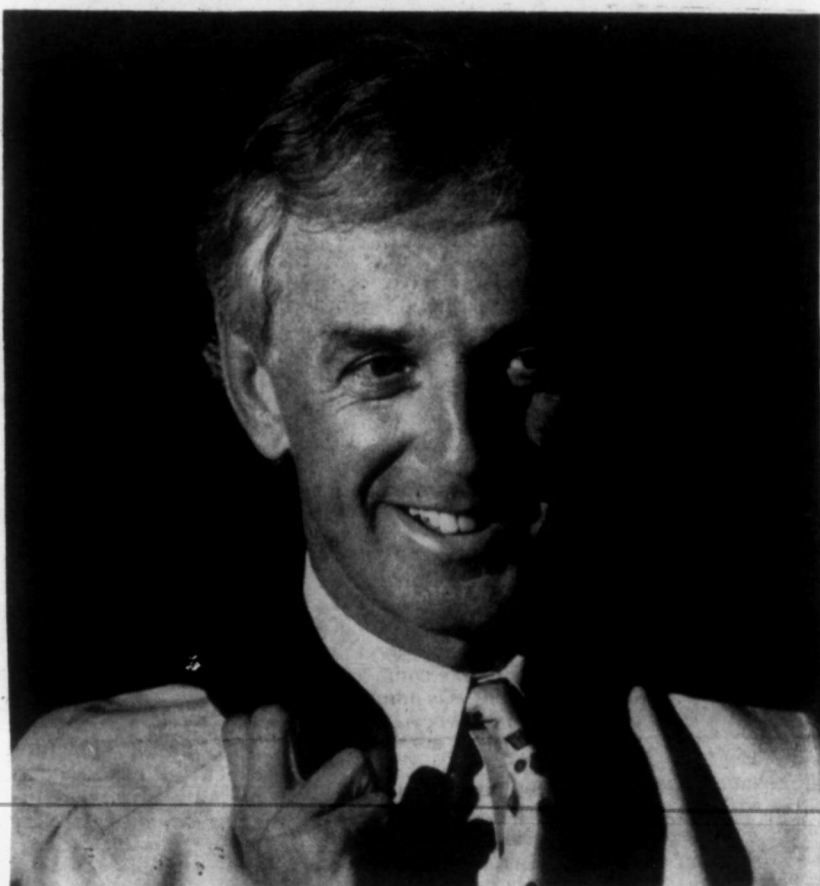
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# Comment

## EDITORIAL

### Vote Yes on Question 5

It is not enough to say that Question 5 began in Arlington so we much support it. Question 5 is reasonable answer to a very complex question. Even many of those who disagree with the law, support the concept of guaranteeing a specific amount of aid for local government.

Question 5 seeks to mandate that 40 percent of the state's growth taxes be returned to municipalities in the form of local aid.

We agree with this and believe you should support it with a vote on Nov. 6.

The question has been boiled down to this: A tax dollar spent closer to home buys you more value than one spent on Beacon Hill. This is something no one can dispute.

Question 5 will not increase or decrease your tax bill, but it will funnel more of your state taxes back to Arlington and other communities across the state.

Yes, the question will require some deep cuts at the state level, but without it even deeper cuts are projected for those services that hit closest to your home.

Vote Yes on 5.

## LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

### Parents urge continued cable coverage

#### TO THE EDITOR:

At last Tuesday's School Committee meeting, there was a lengthy discussion about whether to continue to broadcast School Committee meetings on cablevision. We urge the School Committee to continue this practice. Many parents of school children often do not have the opportunity to attend every School Committee meeting, but want to know what has been discussed. We are glad that the Arlington Cablevision televises the meetings not only while they are happening but also repeats them at other times.

What goes on at these meetings involves Arlington parents in Arlington's politics and thereby makes them an active part of Arlington's future. For the past three years, these meetings have served as a springboard for school teachers, administrators, and parents to discuss how to pull the town through tough fiscal times. These forums are too important for us not to have the opportunity to watch them.

We strongly urge all the School Committee members, as our elected officials, to welcome the camera into the committee meetings. These two or three hours on camera allow us all to participate in what goes on in our public schools.

Clarissa Rowe  
Stephen Batzell  
Nancy Dredge

### Stop & Shop on Summer St.

#### TO THE EDITOR:

Stop & Shop and the town should consider the undeveloped old dump site on Summer Street for the Super Stop & Shop. There is plenty of land. The road could be easily widened along that stretch to allow a left turn lane and an additional travel lane. The drainage problem is that area would be alleviated.

The traffic congestion on Mass. Ave. would be lessened and underused Summer Street could be taken advantage of.

The town needs additional tax revenue and diversification from relying on residential property as a tax base.

Building the proposed condominiums on the site will be uneconomical for several years, at least, and the developer may be glad to get rid of the land. The site should be landscaped to minimize noise and visual impact on the abutting neighbors.

Stephen Blagden

### Residents urge

#### 'No' on Question 2

#### TO THE EDITOR:

As readers of your paper, taxpayers in the Commonwealth, and employees of an engineering and architectural design firm which provides services to various state agencies and authorities, we are writing to alert you and your readers to serious problem confronting us on the November ballot — Question 2. This referendum is sponsored by a labor union (unaffiliated with the AFL-CIO) known as the Massachusetts Organization of State Engineers and Scientists (MOSES). Passage of this question would virtually eliminate the use of consultant services to the state and in its place would require the hiring of more than 40,000 state employees to perform these same services.

The state employees union would have us believe that the "consultants" in question are high paid "hired guns" with political connections living off the fat of government. The truth is that the use of private industry to do essential services provides high quality results and stimulates the local economy. These services include health care, elderly services, bridge and roadway design, emergency harbor waste clean-up, the Boston Harbor clean-up and Central Artery Depression designs, and numerous

(See LETTERS, page 7A)

### Note to our readers

This week The Advocate has provided space for the proponents and opponents of some of the ballot questions that will face the voters on Nov. 6. You will find the pro and con arguments for Question 5, the pro argument for Question 8 (which will be found in East Arlington only) and the pro argument for Question 2. Next week we will have the con argument for Question 2, and the pro and con argument for Question 3. Any other ballot issues residents would like to address, will be accepted until Monday at 3 p.m.

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## GUEST COLUMN

### Looking at Question 5

#### Could hurt human services

By JOAN BUTLER-WEST

Special to The Advocate

Seven years ago my husband and I chose Arlington as a place to buy a house and raise our family. Our oldest child just began kindergarten and with that significant milestone, my sensitivity to the issues of public education was heightened. The proposed school closings discussed last spring cost me more than a few nights sleep.

I've watched our town struggle through each year's budget process and worried about the long term effects on our community of the override votes that pitted young against old and neighbor against neighbor. I know our town could use more money and I trust our town government would manage it well.

Then why do I oppose Question 5? After all, this initiative by the Massachusetts Municipal Association would increase local aid 48 percent! Cities and towns which now receive 28 percent of state revenue from sales, income and corporate excise taxes would get a full 40 percent of those revenues if Question

5 passes.

I am opposed to Question 5 for three reasons:

1. It shifts far too great a share of state revenues to cities and towns at the expense of other state programs. If state revenues continue to go down, local aid would still get 40 percent of what's left. Then where would the money come from? The way our state budget is constructed, close to half of these funds must go for items that are immune to cuts, i.e. debt service, pensions, entitlement and other contractually binding items. This means that the cuts would have to be made in the so-called "discretionary" programs. But don't let the name fool you. Discretionary does not mean frivolous.

Programs such as fuel assistance for the poor, day care for children, homeless shelters, higher education, home care for the elderly and disabled, bridge and road repair and AIDS education make up these "discretionary" programs which have already been cut more than \$466

#### Could bring local stability

By DONALD R. MARQUIS

Special to The Advocate

Municipal officials have struggled for 10 years trying to implement Proposition 2½ as well as they can. For the first eight years it was difficult but doable.

Although Arlington had to reduce its property tax levy and automobile excise tax for a total tax loss of approximately \$5 million the first year, and an accumulated loss of approximately \$50 million since FY1981, we were able to continue to provide adequate services because: 1) school enrollment was declining; 2) inflation was dropping; and 3) local aid was increasing. Those three factors continued to exist for eight years, up until 1988.

However, in the last two years local aid has been reduced dramatically. While the governor and the legislature approved an additional \$2 billion in new taxes in the last two years, local aid was reduced by \$350 million. For Arlington, this has meant a drop from \$16.1 million to \$13.8 million in local aid.

In 1982, the governor promised

and the Legislature committed itself to returning 40 percent of the growth taxes to the cities and towns in the form of local aid. In 1988, the cities and towns in the form of local aid. In 1988, the cities and towns received 39 percent of the growth taxes in local aid. However, when the state discovered it had been spending money it did not have, the governor and Legislature decided to balance part of the state budget on the backs of the cities and towns.

As a result, the 1990 local aid to the cities and towns dropped to 32 percent of the growth taxes. In addition, the state took \$91 million from the lottery that belonged to the cities and towns to help balance the state budget. Finally, the state also took the so-called "rainy day account" money that was earmarked for the cities and towns in the event the economy slowed down and state revenues dropped. Municipal officials had to go to the state Supreme Court to get the local aid that was rightfully theirs. The governor was forced to give the cities and towns (See MARQUIS, page 10A)

### Residents should vote yes on Ques. 8

By JOHN HERZOG

Special to The Advocate

East Arlington and Belmont voters face a bewildering array of candidates and questions when they enter the polling places on Nov. 6. One question, however, deserves their special attention — Question 8 — because it is both a "home-grown" item, and because it deals with issues more fundamental and far-reaching than any of the others.

And, via a favorable vote on Question 8, Belmont and East Arlington citizens can send a message to the State House, to other Massachusetts towns, and to Washington that the fundamental wishes of the electorate are being ignored in the current, and unseemly, skirmishing about budgets for 1991 (and beyond),

in both capitals.

Question 8 addresses one of the major causes of our multiple fiscal crises: excessive and wasteful spending at the federal level on purported national defense, and the consequent impoverishment of both government and private activities at the state and local levels. Question 8 recommends: 1) a 50 percent cut in the defense budget by 1996; 2) enactment by Congress of a "conversion" policy, through which the federal government would assist states, communities, and individual companies to shift from military to domestic production; and 3) channeling of the savings from the defense cuts into reduction of the federal deficit and to revenue-sharing with states and localities, to support new and

revived programs in education, housing, health, environmental protection, etc.

Question 8 is sponsored by the Belmont Committee for a Nuclear Weapons Freeze, a decade-old organization that has worked to reduce this nation's reliance on a nuclear-based defense strategy and in support of peaceful solutions to international problems. In late June, when BCNWF members collected signatures on the petition to put the question on the ballot, most people were pleased to sign; they recognized that the Cold War is over, and that it makes no sense to sustain past levels of investment in Cold War weapons (Star Wars, the MX missile, ASATs, etc.) — and Cold War troop assignments (more than 300,000 American

servicemen still in Europe, for example, prepared to confront a disappearing enemy). They understood, too, that defense expenditures had been preventing the nation from enacting appropriate responses to pressing domestic problems, and indeed were creating the largest domestic emergency of them all: the staggering national debt, which currently exceeds \$3 trillion (more than \$12,000 for every man, woman, and child in the U.S.).

Beyond this, many of them saw, whatever their positions on the other budget and tax questions lined up for November, that only a new balance in federal expenditures will enable the federal government to return to its traditional role in the political (See QUESTION 8, page 9A)

### Question 2: Who's fooling whom?

By BRIAN R. GREELEY

Special to The Advocate

The opponents of Question Two have launched a propaganda campaign based on the slogan, "Don't Be Fooled." I wholeheartedly agree.

I sincerely hope the public is not fooled by smokecreens, innuendo, and outright lies, designed to distract their attention away from the real issues behind Question Two: True reform of consultant waste and abuse.

Like the real tailors in Hans Christian Andersen's classic tale, "The Emperor's New Clothes," the opponents of Question Two are asking you to see things that do not exist, and ignore what does.

What does exist is an entrenched system of blatant waste, cronyism

and abuse. A few examples clearly illustrate that: like the Executive Office of Communities and Development proposal to rehire an employee who was being paid \$28 an hour, to perform the same job as a consultant for \$100 an hour; or the family owners of the Cape Cod and Hyannis Railroad who were allowed to keep \$2 million from their consultant contract while the state paid for virtually all the operating expenses of the project; or the 500 consultants who were given an \$85 million, one-year contract (which averages to \$170,000 for each consultant) on the same day that the Inspector General reported that they had only completed 89 percent on their previous \$87.9 million contract and had a 21 percent cost overhead; or the former Duka-

kis cabinet secretary who was paid \$120,000 to produce a report on the MBTA which most people thought could have been for free; or the 61 consultant contracts the MWRA has amended by \$75.5 million, for an average increase of 78 percent, a process which the Inspector General claims, "invites waste and abuse."

These are but a few of the examples of abuse which the consultant lobby is asking you not to see. Don't be fooled. Ask yourself why these practices are not only allowed but have become business-as-usual to the tune of more than \$300 million contracts every year. A yes vote on Question Two would eliminate these abuses and allow for consulting contracts only with those providing truly needed expertise.

Instead of refuting these charges, the opponents of Question Two are misleading you by claiming that the initiative petition would apply to human service providers, eliminating a valued service and adding thousands to the state payrolls. Nothing could be further from the truth!

First, state law and the state legislature draws a clear distinction between consultants and human service providers. A consultant provides service directly to the state, while human service providers work for individuals, and are then paid in part or whole by the Commonwealth or Federal government. This critical distinction has been long recognized in policy and practice, but our opponents (See QUESTION 2, page 11A)



## LETTERS

(From page 6A)

other projects and services now undertaken by private firms through competitive, cost-conscious selection criteria.

By eliminating the use of the private sector to provide part-time college teachers, human services professionals, health care providers, and engineers and architects, the work being done would stop while the state hires tens of thousands of new employees to take their place. At a time when there is widespread agreement that state government needs to be scaled back, does it make sense to add so many people to the Commonwealth's payroll? 40,000 new state employees would need to be hired on a permanent basis with salary, fringe benefits, and pension provisions needed to support these professionals. And many critical services would be dangerously delayed or discontinued. It doesn't sound too smart.

I urge all your readers to join with me in voting against Question 2. Don't be stampeded into false understanding. Don't be fooled. Vote no on two.

Kathryn Edwards  
Greg Heath  
Paul Robinson

## Howard responds to letter

TO THE EDITOR:

I found Mr. Thomas Rawson's letter to The Advocate 2 weeks ago interesting reading. I'm referring to his letter which attempts to interpret my position on 'Family Values'. It seems however that he has missed the point.

What we're talking about here is a matter of pandering to "Special

Interests" by Rep. Robert Havern III, (D) Arlington. He has consistently placed special interests above the interests of the people of this district. The Massachusetts Lesbian/Gay Political Caucus is just that... a political organization. A group which seeks to gain "special rights" at the expense of others.

This irresponsible action is no different than Havern's introduction back in the spring of an amendment to the budget calling for the placement of 1500 slot machines through out the Commonwealth. This of course in the middle of the night at 2:15 a.m. during a "legislative feeding frenzy", a time when those seeking special deals find a pandering "Hack" legislator to get special legislation passed... again, at the expense of the rest of us (was this the gambling lobby special interest?). He was of course chastised by his peers and laughed out of the House.

Yes, the real question here is Special Interests. Mr. Rawson might want to ask Rep. Havern about how he built his war chest of money from special financial special interests call PACs (Political Action Committees). He raised over \$6000 from big banks recently. The very same banks who have "egg on their faces" due to the huge portfolios of non-performing loans. And ask him about the Five High Street fiasco of the Medford Savings Bank where he is on the Board of Directors. Ask him about what happened when the greed of special interests evicted small businesses (in the name of progress) from a busy block and adversely affected the traffic flow away from other small businesses in Medford Square.

Mr. Rawson's suggested "bigot-

ry". I call it exposing the real political bigotry of my opponent Rep. Havern. I call it another example of sending the wrong message to the people of our district and our state that "anything goes". I call it a betrayal to those who supported him and trusted him.

Perhaps Mr. Rawson missed the news article of May 31 (Advocate) entitled Howard Questions Havern's Stance. Here I questioned Rep. Havern's yes vote on the Roster Care amendment. I felt that, with the exception of close family, Gay and Lesbian couples should not (under the force of law) be especially entitled to adopt foster children.

Finally, I hope that the people of Arlington understand my concern for children goes far beyond that of special interests groups.

Douglas J. Howard

## Monument Market appreciated

TO THE EDITOR:

My great admiration goes to Cathy Bowser for her letter in The Advocate of Oct. 11. She voiced what many of us felt, but which for one reason or another we did not get around to saying.

I have lived in Arlington since 1938 and I am one of the elderly who depend on Warren and Nish to have the kind of meat I have gotten accustomed to over the years. I can still get down to the Monument Market but there were many days when my husband used our only car for business and my children were very young that I couldn't. Then Warren would bring my order up to me and do it with never a fuss — never

(See LETTERS, page 11A)

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# Residents should vote yes '8'

(From page 6A)  
and economic life of the country, which is to assist states and localities, directly and indirectly, to meet citizens' needs in areas in which individual efforts are by nature inevitably inadequate (e.g., provision of transportation systems, schools, hospitals, unemployment insurance, air traffic management, etc.). These are the areas in which state and local resources alone are often insufficient to meet genuine needs, as the present budget crises in Massachusetts and (prospectively) in Belmont and Arlington demonstrate.

Saddam Hussein's September adventure into Kuwait muddled this general consensus. How can we cut defense spending if we have to send tens of thousands of troops to the Middle East? Would cutting the military budget be a betrayal of our servicemen enclamped upon the sands of Arabia? The answers to these questions were unclear, for a while.

But by September, the answers were no longer a puzzle. We can cut overall defense spending, because Operation Desert Shield, for all of its risks and costs, is a different kind of

military venture than the superpower confrontation for which we have prepared all these decades. For the latter, we budgeted in 1990 a total of \$306 billion; but Desert Shield, a "conventional" operation, will cost only \$15 billion, according to Pentagon estimates, much of which will be offset by our allies' financial contributions. That is less than 5 percent of the 1990 budget. Clearly, we can cut expenses for outmoded Cold War armaments (Star Wars, Midgetmap, etc.) and Cold War troop deployments (in Europe and the Far East, for example), and still maintain enough military resources to support our servicemen in Arabia. We could make these cuts and even engage in simultaneous "conventional" activities elsewhere in the world, should these unfortunately be forced upon us.

Thus, the rationale for support of Question 8 remains intact. We need to eliminate now-wasteful military expenditures, which benefit only the few people who receive them as payments for the arms and services they produce, and devote a much larger share of the magnificent but nonetheless limited resources of this nation to solving its domestic

problems.

Question 8 is a beginning step in this direction. If the voters approve it, they will not directly influence how Congress and the president behave. Technically, they will only instruct the elected representative of this state legislative district to introduce into the Massachusetts Legislature a resolution identical to Question 8, which if passed there would be forwarded officially to the president and Congress.

But the real value, and it is a great one, of Question 8 is symbolic. If we, the citizens of Belmont and East Arlington approve it, we will send a signal throughout the state and the country that the voters in one middle-of-the-road district, given the opportunity, have said, "Enough! No more military waste!" In no other district in Massachusetts or elsewhere (that we know of) do the voters have this opportunity. If we seize it, the word will go out, and similar referenda will be held. Finally, Congress may get the message, and as a nation we will begin solving our many problems.

(John Herzog is a resident of Belmont and a member of BCNWF.)

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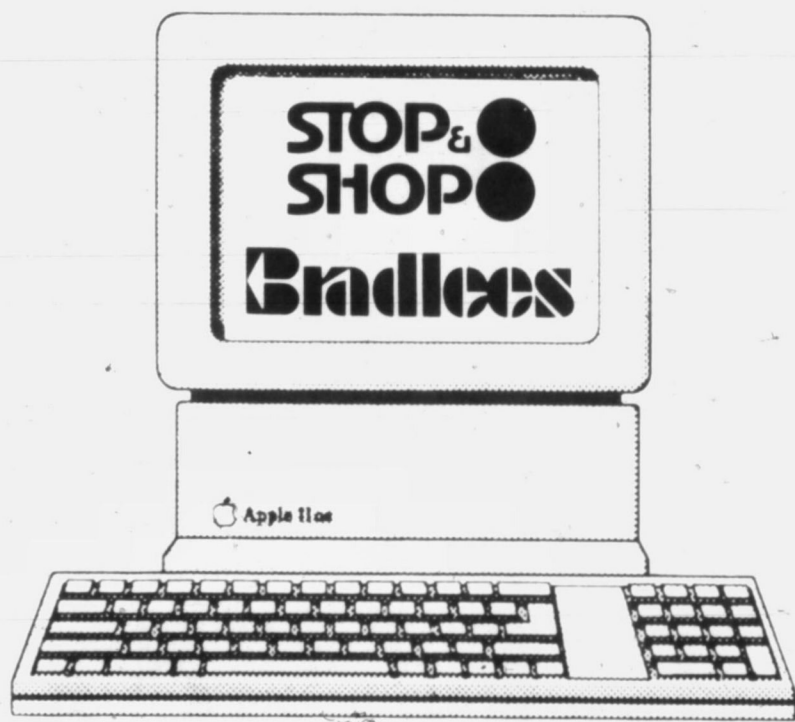
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## Question 5: a good answer

(From page 6A)

the \$210 million that we were entitled to, only to turn around and cut that same amount in local aid the following year.

The state has not been forthright with the cities and towns. The partnership that was established in 1980 after the passage of Proposition 2½ by the voters disappeared in 1988. The cities and towns were left to solve their own financial problems with severe cutbacks in local aid.

The purpose behind Question 5 is to send a strong message to the governor and Legislature that they cannot continue to mismanage the affairs of the state and spend money they do not have and balance their deficits by reducing local aid. Obviously, the cities and towns cannot provide adequate local services such as education, police and fire protection, public works, library etc. without adequate funding. Quite frankly, we believe that local services are every bit as important as state services.

To those who claim that the state

cannot afford to give the cities and towns 40 percent of the growth taxes, which means about 24 percent of the state budget, let me offer the following. The state budget, not including local aid, has doubled in the last seven years. That is an increase three times faster than the cost of living increase. By contrast, the town's budget has increased at the same rate as the cost of living increase. The town has lost 25 percent of its employees in the last 10 years.

It is clear that the big spenders have been at the state level — not to mention the federal level — and not at the local level. Question 5 will at least return local aid to its FY1989 level — approximately \$350 million more than we now receive. In reality, since Question 5 would be a law enacted by the voters and not the Legislature, the fund necessary to implement it would be "subject to appropriation" by the Legislature. If Question 3 is also approved by the voters, and remembering that the funding for Question 5 is subject to

appropriation by the Legislature, we could expect local aid to be cut again. Therefore, it is not going to take a large sum of money away from human services or higher education as claimed by those who oppose Question 5.

In summary, then, Question 5 is an opportunity that the voters have to send a message to the new governor and Legislature that local aid cannot be used as a political football, that local services are just as important as state services, and that the partnership that existed between the state and local governments must be re-established. Only then can the citizens of Massachusetts receive the services from both the state and local governments that they deserve. Remember, you now have an opportunity, which you probably will not have again, to help set the tone in the Massachusetts political arena. If not now, when? If not by you the voters, by whom?

(Donald R. Marquis is Arlington's town manager.)

## Question 5: a very bad law

(From page 6A)

million since July due to revenue shortfalls. Question 5 would cut these programs 22 percent while giving local aid an excess of 48 percent!

If questions 3 and 5 pass, these programs would be cut 51 percent. As the executive director of Minute-man Home Care, a non-profit regional agency that, under contract with the state, provides elderly home care in Arlington and 15 other communities, I have seen the consequences of cuts when an elderly person must consider nursing home care prematurely and when adult children who depend on home care to maintain that delicate balance between managing their own work and family lives with the care of an

elderly parent suddenly lose it. These programs are a sound investment in our future.

I cannot support the gross imbalance created by Question 5 which would take away services from our most vulnerable citizens.

2. Question 5 would give cities and towns a predictable share of state revenue, which I agree they deserve. What the sponsors of Question 5 don't tell you is that they already have that. Last July a law was adopted to guarantee local aid to roughly current funding levels. It is not an increase but stability is more than other state programs have. At a time when our state is broke a 48 percent required increase totalling \$1.1 billion under Question 5 is outrageous.

3. The distribution formula required under Question 5 favors the wealthiest cities and towns. In the past, local aid was apportioned based on measure of need for the funds. But under Question 5 half of the first year increase — more than \$500 million — would be shared equally by all cities and towns rich or poor. This effect would be permanent because the law freezes this one-time bonus for well-to-do communities at the expense of all the rest. The outcome is permanent discrepancies in towns ability to support its schools, police, fire and other municipal services.

Given the current level of public distrust (disgust?) with the state government and leadership I can understand the temptation to bring as much as possible under the control of local government. But there will be a dramatic change at the state level on election day. As voters we mandated that in the primaries. Business as usual is over in Massachusetts.

As the Massachusetts Taxpayers Foundation which opposes the initiative has stated, "Question 5 is a very bad law based on the kernel of a good idea: a predictable revenue sharing policy. But it costs too much, it apportions the money poorly and the state already has a predictable revenue sharing policy on the books."

What would appear as our gain as Arlington residents would be our loss as Massachusetts citizens. Please join me on election day — Vote no on Question 5.

(Joan Butler-West is a resident of Arlington.)

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